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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/663,551	09/18/2000	Mark R. Thompson	19396-001400US	6622

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EXAMINER

SAJOUS, WESNER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2672

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/663,551

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Wesner Sajous

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torres (5,384,910).

Considering claim 1, figs. 1/2, item 12, Torres discloses a method (10) of providing a graphical user interface (30), comprises providing an initial configuration of the graphical user interface for use by a user (see abstract); and configuring a subsection (of device 56) of the graphical user interface. Torres fails to implicitly suggest that the subsection configuration of the GUI is to allow the user to reconfigure the shape of the subsection during use by the user.

Torres, discloses a method that facilitates the operator reconfiguration of the GUI by rearranging the physical arrangement of menu fields (58-64 as the subsections in the formatted GUI (30). See col.2, lines 39-45. at col. 9, lines 15-35, he provides that a processing system 10 is used to determine as to whether a drop has occurred in either a display portion of the GUI (30) or in the menu field palette 56 (*with menu fields or subsections*). Once the drop is determined, a particular field is repositioned in an active field list, then the window layout is adjusted to include automatic resizing of the window

as well as its components and the active menu fields. It must be noted that the drop determination including the resizing of active menu fields facilitated by the processing system (10) contemplates and characterizes for the subsection configuration and the reconfiguration its shape (or its size which compliments the shape) while the operator uses or interacting with the GUI. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the elements of Torres, wherein a subsection configuration of the GUI is provided to allow the user to reconfigure the shape of the subsection during use by the user, in order to facilitate and enhancing the visual representation of information to the operator.

The invention of claims 2-3, 11, including a formatting graphical user interface (30) comprises defining a subsection of the GUI and designating the subsection of the GUI as reconfigurable (*by means of processor 12 of system 10 defining window 34 including a menu field or subsection 60*), although slightly different, it recites features equivalent to and performing similar functions as in claim 1, and is, therefore, subject to rejections for the same reasons and rationale set forth for claim 1, for the system 10, during processing, does not reconfigure the entire GUI (30), but a portion of the display or the components or subsections of the menu-formatted GUI. It is further noted that the processing system 10 can facilitate the designation of at least one of the plurality of the fields (or subsections 58-68) in field palette 56 of GUI 30 for manipulation or reconfiguration by the user, as characterized by step 178 of fig. 10.

Re claims 4-10, 12-13, the claimed steps of--utilizing a width and height to define the maximum expansion and the minimum compression size limit of the subsection, and

allowing the user to control the expansion the GUI together with the subsection—are characterized by the functions of processing system 10, for this feature allows for maximum flexibility in utilizing the formatted GUI and allows for the customization of the components of the GUI by the user operator. See col. 3.

Considering claims 14-18, Torres discloses or render obvious most claimed features of the invention as applied in the above claims 2-3, and 11 rejections, except for the claimed of designating the subsection of the GUI as non-reconfigurable.

However, Torres describes that the processing system 10 allows automatic visual representation of removal or addition of a particular menu field and is provided as a component on the GUI, in response to a predetermined operator input. A plurality of operator-initiated command can be used to call a particular display for utilization. Each menu field is associated with display attributes, which are automatically implemented in any display of the GUI of the processing system and automatically adjust the size of the GUI display. See col. 3, lines 5-65. Based on the above disclosure, it is noted that the processing system 10, during processing, does not reconfigure or activate the entire GUI (30) and its components, but a portion of the display or the components (subsections) of the menu-formatted GUI. It is further noted that the operator-initiated command under the execution of the processor could contemplate for the designation of a non-configurable sub-section of the GUI. As stated in the claim 2 rejections, the processing system 10 is able to facilitate the designation of at least one of the plurality of the fields (or subsections 58-68) in field palette 56 of GUI 30 for manipulation or reconfiguration by the user, as characterized by step 178 of fig. 10. Therefore, it would

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have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the elements of Torres, wherein a subsection configuration of the GUI is provided to allow the user to reconfigure the shape of the subsection during use by the user; in order to facilitate and enhancing the visual representation of information to the operator.

The invention of claims 19, including the steps of defining the spatial properties of the subsection (*as characterized by fig. 2, item 56 by means of processor 12*); and permitting the user to retain the spatial properties of the subsection during reconfiguration (*by means of the operator-initiated command under the execution of the processor to contemplate for the designation of the reconfigurable subsection of the GUI*), although slightly different, it recites features equivalent to and performing similar functions as in claim 2, and is, therefore, subject to rejections for the same reasons and rationale set forth for claim 1. The spatial properties are noted to represent the field menus or subsections arrangements on the screen of GUI 30, so as to make the user interaction easier.

Re claims 20-23, the claimed—spatial properties apply to a trademark, copyright, trade dress, and/or look and feel a of the GUI—is characterized by fig. 2, item 56, since such section could be provided to represent artwork, logos, text blocks, etc...

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 form.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-872-9314, (for **Technology Center 2600 only**)

or (703) 308-6606 (for informal or draft communications, please
label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121

Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to **Wesner Sajous** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-
5857**. The examiner can also be reached on Monday through Thursday and on
alternate Fridays between 9:00AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached at (703) 305-4713. The fax phone number
for this group is (703) 308-6606.

Wesner Sajous - WOS

Patent Examiner, art unit 2672

May 17, 2002



**MATTHEW LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER**